

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

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O 021255Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4961

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0034

EXDIS

DEPT AT DISCRETION PASS OECD AND OPEC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG IR OPEC

SUBJ: OECD AND OPEC

REF: A. TEHRAN 9083

B. USOECD PARIS 33094

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY AS TO HOW HE SAW THE OECD AND OPEC GETTING TOGETHER PURSUANT TO THE SHAH'S RECENT PROPOSAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AMUZEGAR ON JANUARY 2 STATED THAT THE MODALITIES HAD NOT BEEN WORKED OUT AND THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IF SOME OFFICIAL OF THE OECD COULD WRITE A LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF OPEC OR TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OPEC ASKING THAT A MEETING BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE OECD AND THE MEMBERS OF OPEC BE CONVENED. AMUZEGAR POINTED OUT THAT AT THE END OF THE DECEMBER 23 MEETING IRAQ AND KUWAIT VOICED OPPOSITION TO OPEC TAKING ANY INITIATIVE TO GET TOGETHER WITH OECD. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE IS A DEVELOPING CONSENSUS IN OPEC THAT IT IS UP TO THE OECD TO INVITE OPEC TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE WHOLE CRUDE OIL PRICE STRUCTURE. AMUZEGAR SAID THAT OPEC WOULD BE MEETING ON JANUARY 7 AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN GENEVA. AS PRESENTLY ENVISAGED, THIS OPEC MEETING WOULD DISCUSS THE SHAH'S GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF DECEMBER 23 AND ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT THE ONGOING PRICE OF CRUDE OIL SHOULD BE IN TERMS OF
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THE COSTS OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY. IF NO INVITATION FROM THE OECD IS FORTHCOMING, OPEC MAY SIMPLY HAVE ITS DISCUSSIONS, ADJOURN, AND THEN RAISE PRICES AGAIN IN NINETY DAYS' TIME, AT LEAST IF IRAQ AND KUWAIT

HAVE THEIR WAY. UP TO NOW THE ONLY INVITATION WHICH OPEC HAS IS ONE FROM THE EEC DELIVERED DURING THE RECENT MEETING BY THE DANISH EMBASSY ON BEHALF OF THE DANISH CHAIRMAN.

2. IT APPEARS FROM PRECEDING PARAGRAPH THAT ALPHONSE AND GASTON ACT MAY BE IN OFFING. PERHAPS USG CAN FIND WAY TO BREAK IMPASSE.
HELMS

SECRET

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